

Sandralyn Bailey

04-207

From: Carol J Boggs [cboggs49@juno.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2006 6:52 AM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: FW: Spiritualizing Hollywood; Conscious Media

Dear Mr. Martin and all Commissioners:

I wrote to you last Friday about a la carte TV, and included the fact that MANY have given up this medium due to the baseness of its content, including, by the way, the commercials that sell disease ("Your" disease) and sensuality/sex in even the most innocent of products. The impositions on the public for a profit should be outlawed. Tonight I received this e-mail from one of my friends. It illustrates a great deal of what a growing public is thinking and DOING to combat the lowest types of thinking imaginable today, far exceeding anything that brought about the Romans' downfall so long ago. If we don't learn from history, it does indeed repeat itself.

Most sincerely,
 Carol Boggs

 Friends:

As some of you know, I attended two workshops this past weekend at the "Conscious Life Expo" at LAX.

The subjects were ambitious: **"Spiritualizing Hollywood,"** and **"Media and Consciousness."**

I believe that a genuine grassroots uprising is now underway, and I had the privilege of sitting in a room for four plus hours with some of the Leaders, Visioneers and Pioneers of this revolution. The sense of shared purpose was electrifying.

I promised several of you that I would share some notes, and then found myself wondering when oh when I would have time to write everything up. An answer presented itself this morning through an e-mail from a friend, who took (understandable) issue with the idea of 'spiritualizing' media, and doing anything at all to re-engineer Hollywood. In order to answer him based on my current thinking, and the experience of day before yesterday, I wrote the memo, below, sharing some of the people and organizations who are at the forefront of the drive toward transformation now underway. I would urge you to take a look at some of these sites.

I wish I had time to share more, but Friday is already rushing at us, and I have "promises to keep."

Carol J Boggs rec'd 0
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and miles to go before I sleep," as Robert Frost once put it so well. So, here are some of the key people, fun websites, and my own rant about current reality and the lotus that is just opening its petals, up from the muck.

While this is a personal note, written to a friend in order to answer some objections, it is the best that time permits me in terms of a snapshot of a thoroughly remarkable afternoon.

Blessings, and thanks for being interested in something... **BETTER.**

PS: And do check out the Betterment Media site if you have not already done so:
www.bettermentmedia.com.

Also take a look at Larry Brody's Cloud Creek Institute for the Arts, and TV Writer.com:

www.cloudcreek.org
www.tvwriter.com

Subject: Spiritualizing Hollywood; Conscious Media
Importance: High

Bear:

RE: Your comments on 'spiritualizing Hollywood.' ...

These are good points. Thanks for bringing them up.

There was a lively discussion as to what "spiritual media" might be, as this is an emerging genre that is hard to define.

Names that were suggested hovered around: "aware" media, "positive" media, "inspirational" media, "empowerment" media, "healing" media, and "transformational" media.

The idea of "Spiritualizing Hollywood" is the growing movement to bring spiritual values, practices, morality, decency, literacy, humanity, compassion and Christian love into the thinking and practices of organizations that put out media fare.

There is now, for example, an organization called **CAMIE** that gives annual awards: Character and Morality in entertainment. What a concept! www.camie.org

And a new **LA Chamber of Enlightened Entertainment**. www.lacie.org

"The Visioneering Group, LLC" is a 20-year-old PR firm. "A progressive Public Relations

Agency Linking Spirit, Vision and Values with Media, Marketing & Management." (John Raatz). They did all the strategy and PR on the first "What the Bleep?" and are doing same

for the new release. They are starting a new record label for conscious music, and have a joint venture with Gaia for distribution. Soon, they will be working with an angel investor group in Silicon Valley where their clients can showcase their "positive media" projects.

Check out "Harmony Intermedia," (Ed Lentz, CEO and Founder) which is a "digital media business specializing in transformative visual music programming."

www.harmonychannel.com

As Ed puts it, his work in Harmony Channel is about: "MTV for the soul."

Another place to take a look to get a feel for the trends is "The Center for Conscious Creativity," Co-Founded by TV network veteran Kate McCallum. Kate is also Owner of Bridge Arts Media which specializes in 'conscious' transmedia content such as books, long-form and feature projects.

These are just some of the most interesting people and projects that I encountered in the workshops, but there were others, and these short bits should give you a sense of the fermentation that is going on. More and more people in the entertainment industry are fed up with the violence and garbage that Hollywood is putting out, and want to be part of something more uplifting. They come up to these leaders quietly, at industry functions, and whisper: "I can't come out right now publicly with how I feel, but I am completely supportive of what you are doing. Keep up the good work."

In response to your query, "How can you spiritualize something that isn't real?" I would offer the idea that a global entertainment industry DOES exist, and the content that it is putting out does not do much to empower, elevate, enlighten, heal or improve the human condition. To the extent that there can be content and stories that help us better ourselves, our communities, our country and our planet, and moves our entertainment higher along the scale from "rotten" and totally depraved to "inspirational," we will in fact be spiritualizing this pervasive industry.

As I have never watched television (except for some early Sesame Street, which I loved), and do not even have a cable hook up in my home, I have been spared the mindless, violent

and
generally amoral nonsense that is offered. Jerry Mander's landmark work, *Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television* has been a kind of bible for me, and kept me off the TV grid
for more reasons than just the deplorable and generally degrading content on the airwaves.

Now, after hearing the kind of activism and thinking that is going on in the heart of darkness
two hours to the south, I am energized and encouraged beyond description that there may in
fact be hope.

Also, the ongoing enthusiasm for the Betterment Media project is beyond anything I could
have visioned, prayed or expected.

So, back to your query: Can Hollywood, something that "has no reality" be
'spiritualized'?

I believe that the industry is in fact even right now experiencing the forces of radical change, and re-invention. While "What the Bleep" packs theaters for long runs all over the world, movie theater attendance is going down on an annual basis, and people are "cocooning" (Faith Popcorn's term) at home in their home theaters to run their own programming of generally more wholesome and quality fare.

Bottom Line: Enough people are mad as hell and aren't going to take it any more, to
quote
a famous phrase from the movie "Network." And so a revolution is in the making, and I
am
choosing to be part of it.

Well, I guess I always have been (remember my Vision Plan from 1984?), but now there are more of us.

"NOW is the time, and WE are the ones we have been waiting for." Hopi Elders.

Thanks for your thoughts, which set me off on this rant! Come on in and play! :)

04-207

From: Brenda A. [B-SAVED2@cinci.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2006 6:36 PM
Cc: KJMWEB; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate
Subject: A LA CARTE CABLE

Sirs, I am ready to disable my dish and call it quits with television programming. There is nothing but movies filled with murder, crimes, gangs, sex, and homosexual behavior, and I dread the search for a clean movie to watch in the evening. I would so much back and endorse a la carte cable, as I would only have to pay for channels I actually watch. Gone would be all the useless music channels, sports channels, spanish channels, and pay channels that continually show and produce smut. I finally would have control over my television and what I feel is appropriate programming for my home. Please work hard at getting the cable companies to give there customers a choice in programming , The thought that I must accept bundles of channels , and actually pay for the filth on half the channels in my bundle makes me sick and ashamed to own a television. Please help thoses of us who care what programming is on our televisions and what we are being forced to accept by cable companies. Sincerely, Brenda Adamson at: B-SAVED2@cinci.rr.com

FCC says a la carte cable would save consumers money

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most cable TV subscribers would save money if allowed to pay for only the channels they want, a Federal Communications Commission study said Thursday, reversing the agency's earlier finding that consumers wouldn't benefit.

The analysis by FCC staff provides support for consumer groups and conservatives pushing for a pick-and-choose pricing system to replace the bundled services offered by the cable industry. Cable companies fear that would diminish their wide distribution.

The study gives added ammunition to lawmakers and regulators who see a la carte as a way to clean up raunchy television by giving parents more control over the channels their children watch.

"I am pleased that the commission has concluded tha a la carte offering could reduce consumers' cable bills by as much as 13%," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who plans to introduce legislation next week to create and promote use of the la carte system.

"The report confirms what I have believed for years — if consumers are allowed to choose the channels their families view then their monthly cable bill will be less," he said.

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said if a la carte won't cost consumers more, "I will support an effort to take such an approach, subject to discussions with providers on the downside of such a process."

The industry's main trade group, the National Cable & Telecommunications Association, was quick to point out the downside it sees.

Washington has no place mandating how the industry runs its business, said Kyle McSlarrow, the

list ABODE

group's president.

"Over the last 25 years, the American free enterprise system created the most diverse video programming on earth with the best value for the customer," he said. "It is disappointing that the updated report relies on assumptions that are not in line with the reality of the marketplace."

Currently, Congress requires cable companies to offer a basic service package that includes local broadcast stations. The companies also offer expanded basic packages that typically include bundles of cable networks such as ESPN and CNN. For HBO, Showtime and other premium services, consumer pay an additional fee.

In Thursday's report, FCC staff said its November 2004 report was wrong to conclude that the average cable household — which watches about 17 channels — would likely face a monthly rate increase of up to 30% under a la carte. It blamed its earlier finding on faulty data from the cable industry.

That 2004 report reasoned that a la carte would drive up cable companies' costs for equipment, customer service and marketing and that would almost certainly be passed on to subscribers.

In fact, consumers could receive as many as 20 channels without seeing an increase in bills, the FCC staff said Thursday.

The latest report also said in most cases subscribers would save 3% to 13% on their bills under a la carte. It noted that earlier assumptions that a la carte would lead consumers to watch two hours less of TV — and thus decrease revenue for cable TV companies and increase costs — lacked factual support.

"In sum, many consumers could be better off," the report said.

The support for a la carte comes as many conservative groups and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have bemoaned the amount of violent and racy programming that children are exposed to on TV.

A la carte would allow cable subscribers to pick and pay for individual channels rather than being forced to buy packages. A parent, for example, could pick Nickelodeon and the Cartoon Network — and not have to take MTV or other channels they may find objectionable as part of a bundled package.

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, who was named to his post by President Bush last March, has said industry leaders need to give parents more tools to help navigate the hundreds of channels on cable and satellite TV. He has previously criticized the November 2004 FCC report as flawed.

"According to today's report, a careful analysis reveals that a la carte and increased tiering could offer consumers greater choice and the opportunity to lower their bills," Martin said Thursday in a statement.

Consumer groups cheered the latest findings.

"We think this is really going to open up a whole new debate on the benefits of letting consumers pick their own channels on cable television," said Gene Kimmelman, senior director for public policy and advocacy at Consumers Union, which publishes Consumer Reports.

How to Contact the FCC

To Contact the Commissioners via E-mail

Chairman Kevin J. Martin: KJMWEB@fcc.gov

Commissioner Michael J. Copps: Michael.Copps@fcc.gov

Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein: Jonathan.Adelstein@fcc.gov

Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate: Deborah.Tate@fcc.gov

Sandralyn Bailey

From: Carol J Boggs [cboggs49@juno.com]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2006 6:28 PM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: a la carte cable

Dear Mr. Martin and all Commissioners:

Having read recent up-and-down reports on this subject, currently up I'm grateful to say, I wish to comment.

I am in increasing contact with friends and family - for some time now - who have ceased almost entirely to watch television, due to the sexual, sensual, violent, base, pointless content.

These represent all ages, not just the group targeted by marketers for profit. And their children, now all ages, never give a thought to the box sitting there in the house. And wherever I go to shop and otherwise come in contact with people in communities, I hear or get the comment "we don't watch television."

There would be a change in that in some degree, if people were free to select channels, most assuredly. Instead of A&E (no arts to speak of, and "entertainment" lost its way long ago) and AMC with its repetition of John Wayne and 007 movies and other so-so films, the currently "extended basic" subscribers could defeat Ted Turner who, the minute a film is shown that proves good and popular, buys it so it disappears from the possible, and TMC and TCM could be selected. The C-SPANs, PBS, Mr. Turner's 1 or 2 movie channels, cable news and sports, the local channels with networks, Hallmark, and several others would add up, so the cable companies whose money interests are their concern, would not, I think, suffer. In fact, they may be surprised to win some folks back, but in a different way, if they didn't hasten to raise prices out of fear of loss of revenue. They certainly are not the ones to say what the public might do.

Our world, this planet, and what should be of deep concern to us, our country are in deep trouble and turmoil. Humanism and the new New Age were/are attempts of the young, many of whom are now older, to say what they feel (at the top of their lungs and musical instruments), to feel free of judgment, to care and be caring, to not feel lost in all of this travesty on government by politics that is personal, hateful, self-seeking, money and power grabbing. Everything is couched in the personal and self, self, self. One understands that. While we work those things out, and we must, there MUST be some alternatives to lift out of self into higher ideas and ideals for a long term good effect.

It is not just our children that we must protect from "the raunchy" as the news pieces call it, but anyone who wants to refuse admission to the senses, of it. I would not admit it through my front door, and I do not want it intruding itself into thought. I pay good money to keep it off my computer. No doubt you have heard of studies done proving that plants grow and thrive when classical music is played on low to medium volume, and that they go from slow to shriveling, and never the lush appearance, when pop rock and other music of that type is played. How could we not know, if we haven't lost the power to reason altogether, and the willingness to pay attention to it, and the fearlessness to act accordingly, that the constant barrage of base, sensual, horrific, sexual so-called comedy, and other purposeless, mindless noise would have only a negative and disturbing effect??

Noise is having its harmful effects. And now, someone(s) has come up with making the accompanying usually-background music in programs and films, foreground music, louder than the speakers' voices. What is in back of that grossly annoying occurrence?

I see I am moving off the subject and will bring this to a close. Thank you for having vision enough to reconsider, as you appear to have done. It means much to thousands, be sure.

Most sincerely,

Carol Boggs
Eugene, Oregon

Sandralyn Bailey

From: Craig Brown [craigb5@attglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2006 10:44 AM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

Craig Brown (craigb5@attglobal.net) writes:

Kevin, I'm just sending you this e-mail to tell you I am 110% in support of your initiatives to force the cable companies to be more responsive to their customers through offerings such as a la carte service. Keep up the good work and I hope you win this one.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 12.64.180.129
Remote IP address: 12.64.180.129

No. of Cards read 0
List ABCDE

Sandralyn Bailey

From: David L. Metza [daveman1@centurytel.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2006 7:46 AM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

David L. Metza (daveman1@centurytel.net) writes:

Chairman Martin, Please accept my sincere thanks for continuing your efforts or battle with the cable industry for more choice i.e. a la carte programming for satellite consumers. I don't want to pay and support channels that I don't want. I want choice and feel your cause is just and in my best interests.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 69.179.12.232
Remote IP address: 69.179.12.232

No. of Copies rec'd 0
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Sandralyn Bailey

From: Dennis L. Metza [riveracres@centurytel.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2006 7:40 AM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

Dennis L. Metza (riveracres@centurytel.net) writes:

Chairman Martin, Please continue your efforts in giving me more choice i.e. a la carte programming for my satellite programming. I'm praying you will be successful in your efforts. I try to block the offensive programming but the satellite resets my receiver and I get them back. I don't want to pay and support those channels. Please keep up your efforts.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 69.179.12.232
Remote IP address: 69.179.12.232

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Sandralyn Bailey

From: Earle Robitaille [erobitaille@socal.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2006 1:51 PM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

Earle Robitaille (erobitaille@socal.rr.com) writes:

I would like to strongly support your position for an A la carte cable pricing scheme. As it now stands, almost 1/2 of all the cable channels offered by the company I subscribe to are of no value to me or my family.

The cable companies had to be forced to include local broadcast stations so we could receive local news. They will not offer a la carte service unless you force them too.

Perhaps a new category of broadcasters who would be allowed to offer the a la carte option in all areas where the traditional cable broadcasters have the market locked up would soon settle the issue allowing market forces to settle the argument.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 72.130.120.226
Remote IP address: 72.130.120.226

No. of Orders rec'd. 0
Time: 00:00

Sandralyn Bailey

From: hjweil@cox.net
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2006 1:57 PM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: "A LA Carte" TV Pricing

Dear Chairman Martin:

I fully support "A La Carte" television pricing and hope current law will be changed to allow this. This change will benefit consumers by allowing more choices and a free market system will prevail.

Thank you for your efforts supporting "A La Carte" TV pricing.

Sincerely,

HJ Weiland

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Sandralyn Bailey

From: John Hero [jjh37@enter.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2006 7:42 PM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

John Hero (jjh37@enter.net) writes:

I agree completely:

"According to today's report, a careful analysis reveals that a la carte and increased tiering could offer consumers greater choice and the opportunity to lower their bills. Indeed, in recent months more consumer choice has proven to be technically possible and many companies have begun offering the kinds of tiers the previous report found to be infeasible." BUT when will it ever happen?? The good will survive and bad will disappear, but when can we see it actually in effect?

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 216.193.139.7
Remote IP address: 216.193.139.7

cc: [redacted] rec'd _____
Last RECEIVED _____

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Sandralyn Bailey

From: JACK LUDWIG [jax000bux@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2006 12:18 AM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: Competition amongst cable, satellite and telephone companies

Dear Commissioner Martin,

Just a word to let you know this citizen's comments about packaged Vs ala carte offerings. As a "former" cable and satellite subscriber I chose to do without rather than be forced to take their offerings purely as a matter of personal obstinacy for choice over "take-it-or-leave-it."

I don't miss any of it even though the wife complains about not having the Animal channel.

Prices got obscene and the service got poorer.

Sincerely,

Jack Ludwig

King of Prussia PA

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IN ABOVE

Sandra Lyn Bailey

From: jgaal@netzero.net
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2006 1:02 PM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: a la carte cable

The only way a la carte cable will be cheaper is if your organisation puts guidelines and limitations on what the cable companies can charge. The idea that cable companies will accept and agree to less income for fewer channels is not realistic. Thank you

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LGA/AC/DE

2/13/2006

Sandralyn Bailey

From: FADELFM@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2006 11:25 AM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: cable choice, cable cost, parental control

Dear Mr.Martin:

I am writing you about parental control of cable TV in our home.
 My wife and I and our four boys live in Amherst NY near Buffalo. Years ago I read excerpts from the Booz Allen study done at that time, and have been following your recent testimony before the federal legislature.

Our preference for access runs to news, sports, cooking, and the shows found on the Discovery, and History channels, etc (nearly all of the latter are found above channel 100- requiring a box)

Our cable provider is Adelphia. While the Times Warner Comcast Adelphia mess gets sorted out, I am writing to you to express some mundane wishes for cable service to our home.

Not unlike many families in our neighborhood we get our high speed net access from our cable provider, and we have more than one cable box.

Managing Access and Control:

The technology to manage access ought to be a heck of a lot simpler. That technology exists. But "programmers" don't think like "consumers". Adelphia has problems for sure- and that may be why their consumer focus group and the programming geeks are still a world apart; The twenty minute wait for the help desk with a 20% chance of being hung up on, doesn't help a lot either- but that's another part of the problem

Our cable box provided by Adelphia has a sophisticated program to control access to channels by rating, by channel number, by time of day, and by hour. But my wife can't make her way through the "technology" even though she has a graduate degree and uses her laptop daily for work and home use. She can customize her AOL home page without trouble, however. And if she opens her AOL from another location-the home page-customization and all shows up there. I write many of the spreadsheets and macros for my investment management firm's use; let me tell you that reprogramming the three boxes in our home-is still a chore that doesn't have to be.

One example:

Here is something that our old cable box did that the new one can't: When we used to enter the code to temporarily override a rating, for example-to allow one of the older boys to watch a single show with a higher than threshold rating-guess what happened after the show was over: the parental control automatically reverted to the previous threshold. But the "newer" technology "lost" that feature, an Adelphia tech informed me.

My wife didn't appreciate it when I forgot to reset the parental control Friday evening after temporarily overriding the parental control -- and the next morning she found our youngest watching what she described as "gyrating, scantily dressed females being victimized by male hustlers" on VH1 the next morning.

Pricing

We would pay for what we want and that is better parental control. And we can't help but think that screening the shows and channels we don't want-before they enter our home should be offered along with intelligent consumer, friendly controls at the box or set. You can find precedence for this willingness (or at least lack of objection to paying) in texts on urban economics; i.e., one may not visit the zoo or museum or philharmonic that often but you don't object to paying taxes that give you the choice to access them if and when you wish). Same thing may go for "the quality programming" the industry holds up as being threatened by a la carte menus.

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While much of the current discussions revolve around the cost/benefit and impacts of ala carte menus, I believe a lot of consumers aren't as price sensitive as one would believe from reading the words of the legislators, regulators and industry spokespersons.

Call Circuit City and ask them to correlate household income with expenditures for high end electronics. Call a market analyst for Best Buy. More than the wealthy are buying all that hardware.

With our relatively big family we make do without plasma, big screen, etc.-in favor of several smaller sets in our home. We would opt for paying for programming software and higher pricing for a la carte -- in order to facilitate parental control -- versus the purchase of fancier TVs and other hardware. But right now we don't get a choice. And choice is where we think the argument should be going.

Red Herrings

I think the following contain an ounce of truth and a pound of disingenuousness.

- threats to access by the poor
- threats to quality programming
- threats to expanding and improving cable company service
- the Booz Allen Study and other poorly defined, poorly constructed and poorly executed "analyses"

Thank you for your efforts. What might the role of the FCC be dealing with satellite TV and video programming on the PC?

Fred Fadel

Please send any response to fredfadel@willinkservices.com and cc: fadelfm@aol.com

Sandralyn Bailey

From: morecases@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2006 1:09 PM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: For A la carte Cable Pricing

Dear Chairman Martin,

Thank you for continuing the fight for a la carte cable. I am convinced that it will lower consumer costs and improve individual network programming and content. Cable companies do not want this. I am the victim of a cable monopoly and they are not interested in giving me only the channels we watch. They want the big fat monthly subscription fee and they will continue to run their business plan to increase that revenue, without regard to consumer preferences.

A la carte will improve the content on cable networks if you allow competition in the form of a la carte selection. My wife, also a UNC grad, got so offended by images and content she saw by flipping channels, we had to cancel our cable service. I will no longer subscribe to cable because so many channels have offensive content, and I refuse to support those channels with my subscription dollars. Comcast cable recommended I block out the channels I don't like, but that is unacceptable. I would still be supporting the channels with offensive content with my subscription dollars.

When consumers can choose channels based on price, the fees networks like ESPN, MTV, etc. currently charge the cable companies will drop. This will expose those prices to the individual consumer, and they will decide what a fair price is, not cable company executives.

The competition between channels will force better content and reduce the offensive content, as the networks channels will strive to please the viewers and gain subscribers. The networks that meet the needs of the viewers will enjoy increased ad revenue.

Keep up the fight for the American consumer. I am forwarding these opinions to Sens. Chambliss and Isakson and Rep Lynn Westmoreland.

Sincerely,
Philip Houlihan
Fayetteville, GA

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Sandralyn Bailey

From: EDWARD MILLER [ewmkem@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2006 1:06 PM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: A La Carte Pricing on Cable

I strongly agree with the FCC push to let people select what they want to watch on television. We should not have to pay for channels that we care nothing about. Keep up the pressure on the cable-television providers to implement this change.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Miller

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2/13/2006

Sandralyn Bailey

From: William Cook [cook.william@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2006 8:50 PM
To: KJMWEB; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; FCCINFO
Subject: I strongly support "a la carte"

Chairmen and commissioners,

I would like to express my strong support for a "a la carte" approach to cable programming. For too long I have had to purchase inappropriate channels simply to get channels like ESPN or Cartoon Network. A system that allowed me to choose which channels I would purchase would put the power back into my hands. It would also ensure that channels that couldn't compete would go out of business. Please move this forward!

William Cook
1001 Newhaven Court
Birmingham, AL 35242

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2/13/2006

Sandralyn Bailey

From: Oldcity2@wmconnect.com
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2006 5:08 PM
To: KJMWEB
Cc: rkhopkins@yahoo.com
Subject: Cable TV Selection & Rates

I read recently that the FCC FINALLY agrees that Cable Companies should offer a la carte pricing to consumers. Back in the 1980's the claim to fame on TV was to tell us we would have 500 channels to select. Our response was why??? Of what good?? Who cares?? The average adult probably sees 10-12 channels regularly and that is their normal fare. We are charged for channels we NEVER access. The worse of it is Cable Cos raise our bills annually a few % over and above the cost of living on premise they are giving us addl channels. BUT WE DO NOT WANT MORE for the most part. State/local gov'ts tax us on the increased amounts. ALL ARE WINNERS EXCEPT US. Good to know you will support channel selection. Bravo.
Please make the change SOON!!!! RK Hopkins

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2/13/2006

Sandra Lyn Bailey

From: randypayment [randypayment@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2006 6:21 PM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: Cable Rates

Dear Sir,

I want to let you know that I agree with you that à la Carte cable does not have to mean higher prices for consumers.

\$149 and rising.

That is how much money I paid Comcast for Cable TV, Digital Phone, and Internet service every month. But is still wasn't enough. I just received a notice from Comcast that they are eliminating a \$16.90 discount on my Digital Phone service which would bring the service from an average of \$27.18 a month to over \$39.99 a month. Enough is enough. I switched to Verizon, stripping all unwanted extra services. It will be difficult and time consuming, but I have had enough of sending large sums of money to Comcast.

But I don't have that luxury in my choices for cable TV to reduce my current \$123.22 Comcast bill. There really isn't any competition in cable TV like there is in the telephone business. The bill includes \$42.95 for broadband internet access. DSL is not available at my Dover address. As a computer professional it is necessary for me to have high speed internet access so I can't get rid of this service even if I wanted to. So that leaves roughly \$80 for my cable TV bill. The good news is I purchased a widescreen HDTV two years ago, and I really enjoy my home theater. The bad news is I pay \$80 for 250 channels and I watch only 16 of them. Only 13 channels are in high definition. I still watch the local WMUR daily for news, and a few others in analog on a limited basis. I figure that I am paying for roughly 237 analog channels that look bad on my HDTV so I refuse to watch them. Sure you might say that I have a luxury package with all of these services, but it was my only option to bring HD into my house. If I could have the channels listed below for a reasonable price, and remove the other 237 channels from my service then that is what I would do. Satellite service is also expensive, complicated, and there is no way to guarantee that if I spend the hundreds of dollars I need for satellite that I won't wind up with an expensive service which doesn't work as well as the cable service I want to replace. I shouldn't have to eliminate cable service, and go back to an antenna on my roof. It doesn't sound like much of a future for HDTV. All I am asking for is fair prices, and freedom of choice.

The whole analog/digital service should be eliminated. I have basic cable, expanded basic, and Digital Silver which includes HBO and the guide. Why am I forced to buy a Digital package which has similar channels to the expanded basic package? Oh yeah, I just received another rate increase of around \$6. Basically every cable service that we use went up a dollar or two.

I urge you to open up the cable business to real competition. Limit the merger activity that gives consumers less choices. Give us the right to choose from any number of cable providers. Let us choose the channels we are willing to pay for. Thank you.

Randy Payment
 86 Glenwood Ave.
 Dover, NH 03820

The channels I actually use:
 (HD channels)
 PBS
 ABC
 NBC
 CBS

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FOX
UPN
HBO
WB
Discovery
ESPN
TNT
INHD
INHD2

(Analog channels)
WMUR 9 (NH)
The Weather Channel
CNN Headline news
Outdoor Life Network

Sandralyn Bailey

From: pat fowler [fowler_patricia_j@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2006 11:19 AM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: proposed rule making and my concerns about how it will affect my community

Dear FCC Chairman Martin:

I am writing about the proposed rule-making underway at the FCC to enable all commercial providers to compete more or less equally for the right to carry cable, internet and other broadband communications in our communities. My concern is that each of them carry the PEG channels equally, so our citizens can have access to the benefits of the work being done in our communities to link us together.

I am a local volunteer who makes a cable tv show for my public access channel, CAT3, in Columbia MO. My co-producer and I put between 20 and 40 hours a month into the creation of our show, again as volunteers. We film, we edit, we expend our own money for digital tapes and DVD media.

Our show is called Running Columbia and it's about high school cross country, track and field, community 5K's and our summer kids track program, along with our annual half marathon event. We've created 8 episodes to date.

I still, after, a full year plus of on-air time for our local channel, CAN NOT watch the channel in my home. I miss alot of locally created programming because of this. Charter Communications is the provider for my neighborhood and the out of city addresses.

I can drive 5 miles to a friend's house, and watch it on the other cable provider's network (MediaComm). Despite 6 years of holding the contract for the homes on the fringe of my community, our local cable provider still remains almost defiant in their failure to carry the channel.

I have appeared at the city council, at the Cable Task Force meetings and been interviewed several times by the local paper, specifically, about the failure of the local francisee to interconnect to the public access channel. They tell me 'the lawyers' are working on it, and then they make a joke about how bad lawyers are. And roll their eyes.

You can imagine my frustration.

As you discuss opening these markets to phone companies and many varieties of other providers, please incorporate my concerns and impressions:

first the local companies appear to work hard to avoid complying with certain portions of their existing agreements (the other one being customer service response times); I understand that one of the unintended consequences of your proposed rulemaking is to inch their way out of the obligation to carry and fund public access as part of the 'rent' they pay to use our community easements and infrastructure.

second, the commercial value of these other services is substantial and they are not compensating the city, and county for the use of the easements to the extent they need to change the nature of the easement for these new services; the dollars to be generated by the additional services are not part of the current calculations;

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most families are stretching to continue to carry tv and broadband internet at home, as more channels of interest move off the basic menu and onto the extended basic menu, where the costs increase on a regular basis. One of the reason people are so inflamed by the cable companies is that their ability to pay for the services already offered is stretched; we have yet to see or believe a completed promise to lower the costs of these services. If we switch to satellite tv, we can't access the local PEG channels at all.

Without community access tv and its channel, so many worthwhile aspects of our community would go under-reported. Because of the existance of our community access channel, funded by the franchise agreement fees, our local elected officials are contemplating holding regular town hall style meetings on the air. We have tried for years to create a predictable forum where we can meet with our local elected officials, even our Congressman, to hold thoughtful discussions on issues important to us. Its close to happening because of community access tv. (Try attending your local city council or county council meeting and see how little time there exists for thoughtful conversation with your elected officials. They often don't discuss among themselves as their agenda is so long. . . .)

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Pat Fowler
4995 N. Sandker
Columbia, MO 65202

Yahoo! Mail
Use Photomail to share photos without annoying attachments.